

## REMARKS

### Rejection of Claims 58-90 - 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, Claims 58-90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Fletcher-Haynes et al. U.S. Published Application No. US 2001/0034614 A1 (hereinafter "Fletcher-Haynes").

Independent Claims 58 and 82 have been amended to include the substance of former Claim 65. As amended, Claim 58 now additionally recites that the system includes a blood component collection kit inventory database for tracking the inventory of blood component collection kits to assist in replenishing the blood component collection kits. Similarly, Claim 84 now recites that the computer readable medium includes a segment for tracking the inventory of blood component collection kits to assist in replenishing the blood component collection kits. Other claims have been amended for grammatical reasons or to change the numbering of segments due to the amendment of Claim 82.

Fletcher-Haynes does not fairly teach or suggest the invention claimed in amended independent Claims 58 and 82 for the following reasons.

Fletcher-Haynes is generally concerned with manipulating and optimizing blood collection procedures to maximize the type or amount of blood components that may be collected from a particular donor. As explained in paragraph 0162, these blood product components include platelets, plasma and RBCs. Paragraph 0195 of Fletcher-Haynes is concerned with an inventory of blood components (also referred to as "units"), i.e., platelets, plasma and RBCs, that have previously been collected. However, this is in furtherance of the optimization procedures of Fletcher-Haynes, i.e., to collect blood components that are not already in plentiful supply at the blood centers or hospitals.

Unlike the present invention, Fletcher-Haynes does not fairly disclose or teach a system including a blood component collection kit inventory database for tracking the inventory of blood component collection kits to assist in replenishing the blood component collection kits (Claim 58), or a segment in a computer readable medium for tracking the inventory of blood component collection kits to assist in replenishing the blood component collection kits (Claim 82). In short, Fletcher-Haynes is not concerned with any inventory of blood component collection kits. The manipulation and optimization techniques taught

by Fletcher-Haynes are directed to maximizing the blood component yield in a fixed time. See, e.g., the Abstract of Fletcher-Haynes.

The Applicants are not in agreement with the reasons cited in many of the rejections of the dependent claims. However, since independent Claims 58 and 82 are believed to be patentable over the cited art, the dependent claims should also be allowable as placing additional limitations on independent Claims 58 and 82.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejections of Claims 58-90 are respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that Claims 58-90 patentably distinguish over the prior art and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Early allowance is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees are due. However, if any fees are applicable, kindly charge any such fees to our deposit account number 50-1039.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to further discuss any of these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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